

CASA REPORT

DOCKET NUMBER: XX-JA-XX

CHILDREN: John Smith
Mary Smith
David Jones

DOB: 12/03/90
8/30/95
2/10/97

NUMBER OF PLACEMENTS:	John	1
	Mary	2
	David	2

MONTHS IN FOSTER CARE: 19

CASA ASSIGNED:

DATE PREPARED:

DATE OF HEARING:

CONTACTS SINCE THE LAST COURT DATE:

12/23/05: In person contact with mom, Jane Smith at BroMenn Medical Center
1/6/06: Family Meeting The Baby Fold
1/13/06: In person home visit with Jane Smith by CASA Supervisor-Laura Beavers
1/18/06: In person contact with the John, Mary and David at foster home
2/1/06: Obtained medical records from BroMenn Hospital
2/20/06: Obtained medical records from BroMenn Hospital
2/15/06: In person contact with Jane Smith at her residence
2/15/06: In person contact with John, Mary and David—observed visit
2/22/06: In person contact with John, Mary and David at foster home
2/3/06: Family Meeting at The Baby Fold-individuals present: Laura Beavers, Caseworker
Mr. Johnson, Foster Mother Mrs. Black, Therapist Ms. Williams
2/16/06: Administrative Case Review with Mr. Johnson, Mrs. Black, and DCFS Reviewer
Steve Bryan-It should be noted, Mother, Jane Smith did not attend this meeting
2/22/06: Meeting with Dr. Stitchemup
3/1/06: Phone contact with Chestnut Health Systems counselor, Mr. Drinkensbad
3/1/06: Phone contact with Mr. Landlord

CURRENT CASE STATUS:

MOTHER –Jane Smith

Ms. Smith is the biological mother of John, Mary, and David. She resides in the downstairs apartment at 676 Bell Drive in Bloomington, Illinois. Ms. Smith currently pays \$375.00 a month in rent. Utilities are included in her rent payment. Ms. Smith rents the apartment from Mr. Landlord. Mr. Landlord is also her employer and her Alcoholics Anonymous Sponsor. Additionally, there is speculation that Mr. Landlord and Ms. Smith are romantically involved. It is important to note that Alcoholics Anonymous does not support different sex sponsors, nor sponsorships of those romantically involved.

On 3/1/06, I spoke with Mr. Landlord regarding the multiple roles he fulfills in Ms. Smith's life. He stated, "Ms. Smith is behind in the rent and he had given her some work to help pay it and when her income tax came in she became caught up but is now falling behind again. Her utilities are included in the rent. He gives her as much work as he can but things are slow." Mr. Landlord reports that he is not sure who else Ms. Smith works for or when. He also stated that she has not been attending A.A. meetings like he would like her to but that he can't push her without getting her upset. She is currently working on Step 2 of the program. Mr. Landlord reports that Ms. Smith does not attend meetings twice a day everyday. It is important to note the discrepancy between Mr. Landlord's report and Ms. Smith's report. On 1/6/06 at a Family Team Meeting, Ms. Smith reported that she attends meetings twice a day everyday. Mr. Landlord also states that he and Ms. Smith are friends and nothing more.

Ms. Smith is not making progress in her service plan goals. I am not aware of Ms. Smith consistently participating in substance abuse treatment at TBF or submitting random screens. It is challenging to determine if Ms. Smith has addressed her substance abuse concerns if she does not attend counseling or submit random screens.

Ms. Smith has been canceling her meetings and visits for various reasons. She is behind in her service plan and financial obligations. She has also had some health issues which have led to her being in the hospital. I have obtained hospital records and records from her doctor which she signed a release for.

CHILDREN:

John Smith:

John attends NCHSI and is in the ninth grade. I have spoken with John on several occasions and had a visit with him. He appears to be angry with the situation and is anxiously waiting to be placed in the home of his biological father, George Martin and his wife Martina. This move should occur on or about March 17th, 2006. The date was selected to ensure a positive school

transition. The move will occur at the end of the nine week course at NCHS. Progressive visits between John and the Martins have occurred since learning Mr. Martin was John's father.

Until the move can occur, John will remain with his aunt, Shirley Black. He is doing well there. His grades have slipped some but he is working hard to bring them back up. He does very well in school and is eager to learn. He is very verbal about the situation and her feelings. Recently, John has been expressing an unwillingness to attend visits.

Mary Smith:

Mary was recently moved to the home of Clint and Tanya Tucker. Thus far, she appears to be doing well. Mary continues to attend Coleen Hoose School. She is enrolled in the second grade. Her grades are good B's and C's and she remains in good spirits. She is a happy little girl but also can be very verbal about the situation. She is settling in with the Tuckers and I think she will do just fine. Mary is currently receiving advocacy services through the Systems of Care Program.

David Jones:

David Jones was also recently placed in the home of Clint and Tanya Tucker. He has had a couple small issues of settling in and going by the rules of the house. The Tuckers are working with him and things are getting better. I think this is a good placement for David as he needs the "father" figure in his life. I believe David will benefit from having someone to relate and talk to. David is an active little boy and holds his feelings in. I have talked with him and assured him that things will be ok and that he doesn't need to be afraid. He doesn't say too much about the situation. He is attending Coleen Hoose School, is in the third grade, and his grades are good-- B's and C's. David has also been provided with an advocate through the Systems of Care Program.

VISITATION:

Ms. Smith has difficulty maintaining consistent visitation with her children. Often visits are cancelled because Ms. Smith is ill or working. In addition, John has recently expressed an unwillingness to attend visits. I observed the 2/15/06 supervised visit with the children, Ms. Smith and Mr. Johnson. I found things to be a little out of control. The children's behaviors during visits with Mom are much different than their behavior when they are with Shirley Black or the Tuckers.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The children have been in foster care since August 2004---approximately 19 months. Thus, Ms. Smith has had 19 months to make progress in her service plan goals. It appears we are at the same place today as we were in August 2004. The children are in need of consistency, security, love and nurturance. Most importantly, the children need permanency.

The children have been placed in new residents because Shirley Black resigned as the foster parent February 1st due to health and personal reasons. My recommendation at this time is that Jane Smith needs to focus on her service plan and the children to remain in their new placements. Jane has missed meetings and visits due to hospitalization or work. I also recommend that all visits be continued to be supervised. The children know that they are allowed to call or visit the Aunt Shirley Black but that it has to be Ok'd by Shirley and the Tuckers as to the availability of the time and date.

The children become very confused by Ms. Smith telling them one thing and the foster parents and The Baby Fold telling them something else. It is important the children engage in counseling services. The children need to remain in a stable environment as they are with Ms.Black, the Tuckers and the Martins.

1. The permanency goal be changed to "Return Home Pending Status Hearing".
2. DCFS maintain guardianship of Mary Smith and David Jones.
3. Since John Smith was only recently placed with Mr. Martin, it is recommended DCFS remain the Guardian of John, thereby allowing The BabyFold to ensure John's adjustment is positive.
4. Mother remains unfit.
5. It is recommended Ms. Smith submit to random screens.
6. Visitation remains supervised at TBF discretion.
7. All parties ensure the children visit their aunt Shirley Black.
8. A court hearing be held in 3 months with the hope of transferring guardianship of John to Mr. Martin. It is also anticipated that Ms. Smith will be able to report progress in her service plan goal.

Respectfully Submitted,

CASA Volunteer

CASA Supervisor